

GRADUATION CEREMONIAL PROGRAMME

**CONGREGATIONS
FOR THE
CONFERMENT
OF AWARDS**

Winter Graduation
12-14 December 2023



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION



I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you to your Graduation at the University of Southampton, alongside your family and friends. Congratulations on all your achievements while at Southampton.

Graduation at Southampton is a truly memorable occasion and a chance to receive well-deserved recognition for all your hard work and dedication in the achievement of your degree. Here at Southampton, we are very proud of you and you should be similarly proud of all you have achieved, individually and collectively. I am sure you will enjoy this very special day with your family and friends and everyone who has supported you along the way.

There are a number of milestone moments in life and graduating from university is one of them. The completion of your degree and celebration of your achievements are even more impressive in light of the uncertainty and challenges in recent years. Please take the time to reflect on your own journey and what this means for you personally. For many of you, this may represent the end of your journey as a student and the start of your wider contribution to society. With the expanded knowledge you have gained through your studies and the skills you have developed as a result, you are now well equipped for the future. You have shown that you have the motivation to learn new things, which will set you in good stead for the next steps in life.

Since 1952, more than 280,000 students have been awarded degrees from the University of Southampton. During that time, we have built our reputation as a leading national and international higher education institution with a global reputation for education, research, innovation and enterprise. The commitment and contribution of our academic staff, and the talent and hard work demonstrated by you, as our students, has made this success possible.

I am delighted to congratulate you personally on the award of your University of Southampton degree. We share in your pride and wish you every success. We welcome you as a lifelong member of your alumni community and I hope your experiences and memories from Southampton stay with you and form the foundation for a lasting relationship with the University.



Professor Mark E. Smith CBE

President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Southampton

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YOU ARE PART OF OUR SUCCESS STORY

As a Southampton graduate, you are part of our distinguished 150 years of history.

During your time here, through your studies and extra-curricular activities, you have contributed to the vibrant and successful institution the University of Southampton is today.

Aerial image of Highfield Campus

Our history

You may already know that the University of Southampton received its Royal Charter on 29 April 1952, in the early weeks of the reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II. In fact, our roots go back much further than this – to 1862. This is when the Hartley Institution was established in the city centre, following a bequest by Henry Robinson Hartley, the son of a local wine merchant, to the Corporation of Southampton. Located in Below Bar, the Hartley Institution was opened by the then Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston.

In 1902 it was renamed Hartley College, before becoming Hartley University College and, later, University College, Southampton. The Hartley name is still remembered in the Hartley Library that we all know and love.

We were honoured to be the first university to be granted a Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth II, two months after her accession to the throne.

The Royal Charter enabled Southampton for the first time to award its own degrees as a fully independent university, after many years as a degree-awarding branch of the University of London.

Our University today

We've come a long way since then; from a student cohort of around 850 undergraduate and postgraduate students, we now have over 24,800 studying across our campuses in Southampton, Winchester and Malaysia. We welcome and support bright and motivated students from over 130 countries to be the best they can be, pioneer flexible learning and encourage interdisciplinary practice across our academic community.

University Hospital Southampton,
the base for the study of medicine



Highfield Campus



Outside the Hartley Library on Highfield Campus



Highfield Campus



The Mountbatten Building on Highfield Campus



Avenue Campus

We have also built a strong national and international reputation for our research and teaching excellence. We are a founding member of the Russell Group, consistently placed in the top 100 universities in the world and we have a strong demonstrated continuous commitment to the quality of our teaching.

Innovative thinking and pioneering research are at the heart of our culture; our people are finding solutions for some of the biggest challenges that our planet is facing, pursuing environmental sustainability, and making a difference to the world.

This is the place that is leading the development of trustworthy and secure artificial intelligence; where fibre-optic research is creating a faster, smarter internet; where the immune system is leading the fight against cancer; where expertise is tackling the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance; where resources are being secured for the world's growing populations, and through the humanities, we better understand the world.

We stand for exploration and curiosity, interdisciplinary thinking, inventive education and cutting-edge facilities to catalyse change. We inspire minds, bring people and ideas together and give them the space and support to grow, create, ignite, and realise their potential.





The National Oceanography Centre Southampton

The future

All of us in our University community, whatever our role, are custodians of an exceptional institution, one with a history we can all be proud of, and with a future that will prove even more remarkable.

As well as your degree and the lifelong friendships you have made, you are starting the next chapter of your life with a wealth of experiences that will help you shape your future into what you want it to be.

Many of you have participated in original research, undertaken work placements, been involved in enterprise activities, or spent time studying abroad at one of our partner institutions. You may also have taken on active roles in Students' Union clubs and societies or volunteering projects.

These experiences are what help make you unique. They add depth and context to your education and help you to stand out as you embark on the next step in your career. You are an important part of our story. Your achievements – both now and in the future – reflect on your University, while our successes enhance the value of your Southampton degree.



Boldrewood Innovation Campus



Lacrosse at Southampton

Watch our University of Southampton video and share in the combined success of our institution



CEREMONIAL OFFICERS

Our graduation ceremonies will be presided over by one of our senior officers below.



Ruby Wax OBE
Chancellor

From the Royal Shakespeare Company to primetime TV; from a master's degree in mindfulness based cognitive therapy from Oxford University to best-selling author; from interviewing the President (who shall not be named) to delivering a groundbreaking TED Talk. Also from a mental health campaigner to being awarded an OBE for services to mental health, Ruby has brought the same mould-breaking, establishment questioning, and pioneering energy to everything she's done.

She also holds Honorary Doctorates from the School of Psychology at The University of East London, University of Staffordshire, and Bangor University. She has been awarded a City Lit Lifetime Fellowship and is Chancellor of the University of Southampton.

In the field of mental health, Ruby has brought support for mental health to a whole new audience discussing complex neurological theory in an accessible and often hilarious way, but always with a serious point that we need to reframe the conversation and remove the stigma that mental health illness still carries. Ruby helps us understand how we can take control of our overstressed and over critical minds.



Professor Mark E. Smith CBE
President and Vice-Chancellor

As President and Vice-Chancellor, Mark is the Chief Executive of the University and has overall responsibility for its operations. He took up this role on 1 October 2019.

Mark was Vice-Chancellor at Lancaster University from 2012 until September 2019. He was previously Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Warwick.

Throughout his academic career, he has published more than 380 papers about advanced magnetic resonance techniques, helping to understand a range of problems in the field of materials physics.

Mark holds several external appointments including Senior Independent Member of UKRI EPSRC's Council; and board member of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, chairing their Research Wales Committee.

He was awarded a CBE for Services to Research and Higher Education in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours.



Professor Phillip Wright

Senior Vice-President
(Academic)

Phillip has a vital role in promoting and maintaining the University's academic mission including having oversight of all academic planning across faculties and ensuring the alignment of resources with the University's strategic goals. He provides a key focus for ensuring a One Southampton approach to a range of strategic activities including championing the development of an Estates and Sustainability agenda.

Phillip is a Professor of Chemical Engineering. In his research, he uses synthetic biology and metabolic engineering approaches to improve energy generation and production of biopharmaceuticals.

He focuses on measurement (primarily using biological mass spectrometry) and integration of multi-level biological data (eg proteomic and mRNA data), mathematical tools and characterising omics-scale data.

Phillip has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal papers and has been an investigator on approximately £10m of external research funding. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and a Chartered Engineer.



Professor Deborah Gill

Vice-President
(Education and Student Experience)

Deborah joined Southampton in April 2022 from University College London (UCL) where she was Interim Vice-Provost, Education and Student Experience.

Immediately preceding this, Deborah spent two years as UCL's first Pro-Vice Provost for Student Experience. She also led UCL Medical School for six years.

Qualifying in Medicine in 1990, she began her academic career in 1996 at Barts and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry. She joined the Royal Free Medical School as a Lecturer in the Department of Primary Care and Population Sciences in 1997 and moved to UCL to take up a Senior Lecturer post in the Academic Centre for Medical Education in 2002.

Deborah was awarded a Chair of Medical Education in 2015, and became Director of UCL Medical School in the same year. As a clinical academic, she has combined academic work with clinical practice as a GP for over 20 years, only recently stepping down to focus on her senior academic role.

CEREMONIAL OFFICERS

Our graduation ceremonies will be presided over by one of our senior officers below.



Professor Jane Falkingham CBE

Vice-President
(Engagement and International)

Jane is Professor of Demography and International Social Policy at the University of Southampton. She is also the Director of the ESRC Centre for Population Change (CPC). The Centre's remit is to improve understanding of the drivers and consequences of population change both nationally and globally. Jane is also the principal investigator of the new ESRC Connecting Generations research collaboration.

Jane pursues a multidisciplinary research agenda, located at the interface between population studies and social policy and spanning both developed and developing countries. She has published more than 200 books, journal articles and book chapters, and supervised 30 PhD students to successful completion.

Jane has a long history of service to the academic community both in the UK and internationally. From 2017 to March 2022, she was a Member of ESRC Council and chaired the ESRC Grant Delivery Group. She was also the Chair of the ESRC COVID-19 Rapid Response funding panel.

Jane was President of the British Society for Population Studies (2015–2017) and President of the European Association for Population Studies (2018–2020) and is currently Chair of the European Population Information Centre, Population Europe.

Jane was elected as a Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences in 2011 and the Royal Society of Arts in 2016. In January 2023 she was named as a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the King's first New Year's Honours.



Professor Mark Spearing

Vice-President
(Research and Enterprise)

Mark has responsibility for the University's research and enterprise. He also works closely with the Vice-President (Education) and the Director of the Doctoral College to ensure the development of students undertaking doctoral degrees.

He maintains that his is one of the best jobs in the University, as every day he works with amazing people, doing amazing things, with the potential to change our world and our understanding of it (and the wider Universe).

He has been at Southampton for nearly 19 years in a variety of roles. Previously he spent 10 years as Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This followed periods working in industry and as a research fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

He received a BA and PhD in Engineering from the University of Cambridge. His teaching and research are in the areas of engineering materials and structures. He is currently excited about using high-resolution computed tomography to understand failure processes in advanced composite materials; working with material developers and structural designers to produce stronger and more durable systems for aerospace, gas storage and wind turbines.

Mark is also a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

**Wendy Appleby**

Vice-President
(Operations)

Wendy provides leadership to our Professional Services teams, which take great pride in the role they play ensuring that Southampton is one of the leading research-intensive universities, both nationally and globally.

Our Professional Services provide support for the whole range of University activities, including education, research and enterprise, as well as core organisational functions such as human resources, estates, IT, communications and more.

Wendy has worked in higher education for 35 years with a career initially built in functions related to education administration, student support, and academic and institutional governance. Before joining Southampton, Wendy spent over seven years as Registrar at University College London (UCL) and was also Secretary to the UCL Council. She has worked in a total of eight higher education institutions in London and Hampshire.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON ACADEMIC DRESS

Your graduation ceremony is all about you! It is your chance to celebrate your amazing achievements with your peers, University staff, friends and family.

It is the moment that your years of study and dedication to your subject have been leading up to; a moment that, we hope, you will cherish and look back on fondly for the rest of your life.



Traditional university costume
has endured for centuries

Ceremony schedule

- The congregation is asked to stand as the procession enters the venue and to remain standing until the Presiding Officer and members of the procession have taken their seats.
- The Presiding Officer will declare graduation open and address the congregation.
- If there is an award for a higher doctorate, these will be presented first.
- The reader will read the degree classifications to be awarded. Graduands will process across the stage when their name is being read and receive a handshake (or a similar formal gesture) from the Presiding Officer.
- The Dean of Faculty or their nominated officer will address the congregation.
- The Presiding Officer will address the congregation and declare graduation closed.
- The congregation is requested to stand for the procession and remain in their seats until the entire procession has left the stage.

Order of procession

The procession will enter the ceremonial hall in the following order:

- The Academic Marshal (carrying the Jubilee Mace)
- Members of University staff
- The University Marshal (carrying the University Wand)
- Representatives from the Student's Union
- Representatives from the Faith and Reflection Centre
- Directors of Professional Services
- Members of the University Executive Board
- Honorary Graduands (if attending)
- The Public Orator (if attending)
- The Dean and senior members of faculties
- The Vice-Presidents
- The Pro-Chancellors
- The Chancellor (if attending)
- The Graduand Presenter/Reader
- The Mayor/High Sheriff (if attending) The President and Vice-Chancellor (if not presiding)
- The Presiding Officer
- Esquire Bedell (carrying the Foundation Mace)





Ceremony robes and silk colours

Traditional university costume has endured for centuries and is a symbol of the prestige and importance of the degree award you are receiving today. The academic dress worn by members of the procession differs depending on their role in the celebration. Some officers and university staff will also wear robes from the universities where they took their degrees.

Your academic robes and colour of silks will depend on the degree subject and classification that you are being awarded today. Our University colours are explained here.

Ceremonial venue: O2 Guildhall Southampton

To reflect the importance of this year's Graduation celebrations and our partnership with, and presence in, the city of Southampton, our prestigious venue is O2 Guildhall Southampton.

O2 Guildhall Southampton is the city's largest multi-functional venue. With seating for over 1,000 people, the atmospheric main auditorium's original 1930s art deco surroundings will make your Graduation truly unforgettable.



Celebrations

Graduation ceremony



University of Southampton colours and silks



Medicine and Surgery



Science in Medicine, Health and Biological Sciences



Nursing and Midwifery



Philosophy



Arts and Letters



Science



Science in the Social Sciences



Engineering



Laws

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

Graduation is an opportunity to celebrate your time at Southampton, your achievements and share in the successes of your peers.



BUILDING A FUTURE IN MOTORSPORT ENGINEERING

The Southampton University Formula Student team (SUFST) experience the buzz of competing in annual global engineering competitions, while learning completely new skills outside of the lecture theatre.

The team placed first in the Formula Student static events in 2022, and now has its sights set on success – and sustainability.

Last year they built their first fully electric vehicle, marking their permanent step away from combustion-based vehicles and exemplifying the University community's focus on sustainability.

Marek Frodyma, Head of Low Voltage Systems and third-year MEng Aeronautics and Astronautics student, enjoys having the chance to learn more outside of his degree modules. "Being able to build a car and apply that knowledge into actual, real-world engineering scenarios before you go into the industry is a really valuable experience," he says.

"You don't just learn about the engineering side; you learn a lot about yourself. Joining the team was fantastic because I've gone and done a-million-and-one things that I never thought I would do."

Being a part of the team can be a significant asset — there are plenty of skills they can take with them into a range of industries.

Marek summarises: "Not many students can say they've left university and they've built a car already. It's something that is a really useful experience."



SWAPPING IT FOR A CAREER IN MIDWIFERY

Mature student and mum Sam Perry has traded in her previous role in IT to kick off an ambitious career in midwifery.

Graduating with a BSc in Midwifery from Southampton, Sam is planning to continue her studies and ultimately support midwifery education.

Sam, 33, said: "I'm so excited to be graduating. I want to continue with my education, and hope to complete a master's module in midwifery leadership, and then a PhD on student experience and midwifery education. There's a real shortage of midwives across the country, which I think ultimately links back to the training – I'd like to help address this."

During her degree, Sam has logged 2,560 hours on placement in maternity wards and was hands-on for more than 40 births.

She was on the University's Student Midwifery Society committee from her first year, and its president in her third year. For the last year, she has been the south of England representative for student midwives on the Royal College of Midwives' Student Midwives Forum.

She was the first person in her family to go to university and was supported through her studies by the University's Ignite programme, which supports students from under-represented backgrounds.

"Without Ignite I don't think I would have been able to focus on my studies as much at university," said Sam. "It really helped with funding and support, which has been essential, especially as my daughter was only 10 months old when I started my degree."



MAKING EDUCATION MORE ACCESSIBLE

During a University of Southampton internship, five students aptly named the Accessibility Allies, collaborated with lecturers across the University to improve the accessibility of online course materials.

The project resulted in an average increase of 36 per cent in the module accessibility score. With the Allies remediating content across 24 modules in just 12 weeks.

This Accessibility Allies project was part of the University's Virtual Learning Environment Enhancement Project, which saw students and staff collaborate to improve modules that were highlighted as a priority based on the data provided through our accessibility reporting service.

The project included introducing alternative file formats, accessibility scores for existing content, accessibility feedback, and guidance for content creators. The interns undertook accessibility training on how to spot and remedy digital accessibility problems from colour contrast issues to files not using heading styles or alternative text for images.

"I developed a lot of transferrable skills, like working in a team towards a common goal, and how to successfully present my progress in departmental meetings. I also developed a passion for helping other students, which led to me undertaking other responsibilities like Computer Science course representative," says third-year MEng Computer Science student, Sian Brookes.

"Embedding our student community into projects that will directly impact their experience is crucial. Throughout the project, we gained insight from their perspectives which otherwise could have been overlooked. Involving students in projects is a great way to integrate student consultation during our operations," says Luke Searle, Learning Designer, iSolutions.



EMPOWERING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Graduate of Psychology and Law, Daniel Ajayi worked in collaboration with SUSU to ensure that their Black History Month was truly empowering and enjoyable for the University's black students.

As President of the African Caribbean Society, Daniel was well placed to work with SUSU to ensure that Black History Month activities were genuinely relevant and engaging for the student community.

"Together we organised a stunning masquerade ball, a cultural chill night, a cultural food festival and a campaign talking about the importance of names and pronunciation. This allowed black students all over the University to engage in a real sense of empowerment, community and enjoyment.

Daniel was SUSU's BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) Officer for 2022-2023.

"University, although wonderful, is not always easy, so making sure the students are represented with safe and enjoyable spaces that allow them to have an increased sense of belonging is my ultimate aim in this role."



FINANCIAL TRADING SUCCESS

Graduates and students from the Southampton Business School (SBS) excelled in this year's Bloomberg trading challenge competition.

The annual competition offers the unique chance to test student knowledge of the Bloomberg Terminal – a system used by finance professionals across the world – while applying and testing the understanding of the theoretical concepts and fundamentals of finance.

Coached by finance academics from the SBS, students came together to represent the University for the second year running. They competed against teams from other top global universities and performed exceptionally – with one team of PhD students crowned as the winners.

Matthew Palmer, who graduated this summer with a BSc in Economics and Finance, took part in the competition, with his team placing in the top five in Europe.

He comments: "I thoroughly enjoyed the competition and found it extremely beneficial. Participating in the challenge not only enhanced my teamwork and analytical skills, but also provided valuable insights into real-world finance.

"The challenge likely contributed to my success at university, securing a first in my degree, and landing me a job at a hedge fund. I would recommend the competition to fellow students, playing an important role in honing practical skills applicable to both academic and professional pursuits."



EXPLORING DEMOCRACY VIA AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT

Graduates Weihong Tang and Mitesh Shantilal combined their skills in motion and graphic design for a unique final-year project exploring democracy.

Their work explored the 150th anniversary of the Secret Ballot Act and looked at how voting has changed over time. They worked with the Parliamentary Archives, and with Winchester School of Art's design studio, Studio 3015.

Weihong, known as Clover, is graduating with a BA in Graphic Arts (Graphic Design pathway) and Mitesh with a BA in Graphic Arts (Motion Design pathway).

Clover, 21, said: "Mitesh and I worked together on a publication and a motion sequence about how technology will influence our behaviour when it comes to voting. The project was called Democratic Futures."

Mitesh, 22, added: "We wanted to show how voting has changed and advanced with time, so we created a show reel to demonstrate this. It juxtaposes old against new, and shows how technology is coming into play, for example in some countries fingerprinting is now used in voting."

Clover, from China, is on the University of Southampton's Dalian Programme – a collaboration with Dalian Polytechnic University in China. She studied the first two years of her Graphic Design degree in Dalian, and her final year in Winchester. Following graduation, she plans to return to China for a year's break, before applying to return to the UK to study for a master's degree.

Mitesh, who is originally from India but has lived in London for the past 10 years, intends to apply for an internship in motion design post-graduation.



JUGGLING STUDIES WITH CARE

Master's graduate Millie Doyle juggled her studies with supporting her mum to care for her disabled twin sister.

Graduating with an MA in Contemporary Curating from Winchester School of Art, Millie has her career plan mapped out.

She is now retaking her English, maths and science GCSEs to secure a place on a PGCE teaching course next year. She then hopes to teach in a primary school for a few years, to gain enough experience to fulfil her long-term ambition to become an educator in an art gallery, supporting curators to develop and deliver educational programmes.

Millie, 26, said: "My sister Mollie needs 24-hour care, so I regularly support my mum with this. Studying at the same time has been hard work at times but manageable, and the course has given me the experience I'll need to work in an art gallery. My passion is modern art, plus I love working with children, so it's a dream job."

It is Millie's second master's qualification, as she has previously completed a degree and a master's in photography.

Sara Roberts, Programme Leader for the MA in Contemporary Curating, said: "Millie is an exceptional and caring human being. She also has a fantastic long-term career plan that she is carefully planning and following. She is destined for an engagement or education role in a gallery or museum, and I have no doubt that she will achieve this."



GRADUATE SETS SAIL IN RACE AROUND THE WORLD

Southampton graduate and avid sailor, Anne De Kerviler (MEng Ship Science, 2023), is taking part in the prestigious Ocean Globe Race 2023. She is competing with 14 other yachts in the four-leg, 27,000-mile race around the world, which takes place over eight months.

Anne's journey started in Southampton in September, setting sail to South Africa, then to New Zealand, Uruguay, and will finish in Southampton in April 2024.

To mark the event's 50th anniversary, all the sailors will be racing on yachts designed before 1988 – meaning they have no computers or GPS; instead, they will be embracing nature and the stars in the skies.

Before she set off, Anne commented: "I am excited about the experience and just being a part of it, but also passing the equator and going south as this is such an achievement for a sailor, as it is a lot less travelled."

She added: "Everyone has been so supportive especially when I had to go to qualification races and assessments."

"My master's degree has helped me to understand more about boats, their motion and the design of sails, not to mention how your boat moves in the water, and the impact of the wind and the waves."

YOUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY

You did it! We are so glad to have this opportunity to celebrate your graduation: after all the long hours of studying, the ups and downs of the last few years, it comes down to this.

As a graduate of the University of Southampton, you are now part of a global community of more than 280,000 alumni spanning 185 countries and overseas territories. This network of talented people has one thing in common, a shared connection that can help open doors, build relationships, and shape your future as you go out into the world.



Graduating with friends



Graduates celebrating



Graduates attending a graduation ceremony

This is not the end of your journey with us, but the beginning of a life-long relationship. As a graduate, you can take advantage of a whole range of services:

- benefit from careers advice, library services and a University email address
- gain access to our e-mentoring platform, where skilled alumni can provide advice, guidance and networking opportunities, as you build your career
- connect with your community on our LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter groups
- attend our events in person or online
- stay up-to-date with University news via *Hartley News* and *Hartley News Online*, our alumni magazine, and our regular e-newsletters (*What's On*)
- discounted Southampton Sport membership

We know that many of you will be thinking about what comes next, and staying connected to the University and your alumni community is one of the best ways to make sure you have everything you need to achieve remarkable things, land your dream job and keep developing your skills.

You can apply for internships, career mentoring and enterprise opportunities for up to one year after you graduate and you can access one-to-one guidance appointments for five years after graduation.

To make sure you have full access to the benefits and support we can offer you, please update your contact details with us if you haven't already done so.

Updating your contact details is quick and simple – just visit www.southampton.ac.uk/update

You can find more information about what it means to be a graduate of Southampton on our website, along with resources to help you take your next step. Alternatively, you can contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations by emailing alumni@southampton.ac.uk

Congratulations again on your amazing achievement – we are so proud of you! We hope you have a memorable day and we look forward to staying in touch.



Find out more

www.southampton.ac.uk/graduation
graduation@southampton.ac.uk